

2 Sagittarius Lane  
Townsend, MA 01469  
January 12, 1993

FCC Dockets Branch  
Docket MM 92-266  
Room 230  
1919 M Street Northwest  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Sirs:

FCC MAIL ROOM

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

My name is Thomas Rowe, and my residence is 2 Sagittarius Lane, Townsend, Massachusetts. The purpose of this letter is to make a formal complaint against our local cable company, Nashoba Cable Services. During the past year, Nashoba Cable has increased our monthly rates twice - once during March of the calendar year 1992, and most recently the first of January, 1993.

The rate increases imposed by Nashoba Cable are outlined in the chart below:

MONTHLY RATES			
	Effective Jan. 1, 1991	Effective March 1, 1992	Effective Jan. 1, 1993
Super basic package	\$18.95	\$20.95	\$23.95
HBO	\$ 9.95	\$ 9.95	\$11.95
Equipment fee	none	none	\$ 2.95

The attached letter from Nashoba Cable indicates that their most recent rate increase was prompted by the cable bill which Congress passed in October of 1992. With this in mind, and considering the facts stated in the attached newspaper article, I firmly believe that Nashoba Cable is trying to convince its customers that this latest rate increase is a direct result of the Cable Act passed by Congress, and that the Cable Act is the sole reason for their actions. This type of assertion, as indicated by the senators and house members who led the fight for this new cable bill, I believe is false. It seems obvious to me that they have rushed through the rate increase in order to get it in place before the rate regulation went into effect on January 1st. At this time, I would like to see the FCC investigate this incident, and Nashoba Cable's practices.

Nashoba Cable provides services to the following Massachusetts communities: Westford, Tyngsborough, Concord, Carlisle, Boxborough, Littleton, Belmont, Lincoln, Danvers, Ayer, Shirley, Ashburnham, Townsend and Ashby.

Nashoba Cable Services is located in the Westford, Massachusetts area. Their present mailing address is:

Nashoba Cable Services  
P.O. Box 407  
4 Lyberty Way  
Westford, MA 01886  
TELEPHONE NUMBER: (508)-692-6500

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List A B C D E

# Nashoba Cable



Nashoba Cable Services  
PO Box 407  
Westford, MA 01886

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JAN 15 1993

Dear Subscriber,

We want to tell you about some important changes in your cable service that will take effect January 1, 1993. Please review this information carefully, as it describes a number of new policies that will affect you, including a major restructuring of our rates and channel lineup.

FCC MAIL ROOM

Most of these changes were prompted by the cable bill which Congress passed in October, and we have worked hard to incorporate these changes in order to give you a wide range of choices in the programming you select and the total amount you wish to pay for cable service.

Some subscribers will find that their bills actually will decrease or stay the same following these changes. Other subscribers will see an increase, but we are offering some options, including new discounted packages, to help you get the most value for your entertainment dollar. We'd like to point out that these discounts were not brought about by rate regulation, which applies only to basic service.

As of January 1, there will be adjustments in the rates for Super Basic service and HBO, and some changes in our policies regarding converters and remote controls (including a provision to let you use your own remote instead of ours). We are pleased to announce that there will be no increases in any of our other rates and charges, including our charges for installation, relocating outlets, etc.

Due to these new policies and rate adjustments, we will also be restructuring and adjusting the charges for our discounted packages. Please refer to the enclosed rate chart for details.

In order to conform with legal requirements in the new cable bill, specifically the provision that lets Economy Basic customers subscribe to premium and pay-per-view services, our channel lineup will be rearranged substantially as of January 1. We wish we could avoid this change, but the only other way we could comply with the law would be to scramble Super Basic services. In view of the controversy surrounding scrambling, as well as the fact that the Federal Communications Commission's policy on scrambling has yet to be announced, we felt that trapping out Super Basic channels was the more desirable option at this time.

As a result of the new cable bill, the FCC will be announcing new regulations over the next year and beyond which could require other changes in our rates and channel lineup. Court decisions may also play a role in this process. Please bear with us during this transition period. We're adding staff to handle calls, but you may find our phones busier than usual for a while. We'll keep you informed of changes as they occur.

Thank you for being a Nashoba subscriber.

Sincerely,

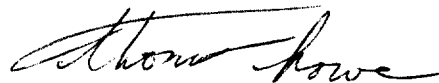
**NASHOBA CABLE**

If there is anything else that I can provide which would assist you in your investigation, please don't hesitate to ask.

I would also appreciate it if you would acknowledge receipt of this letter by letting me know what actions are being taken.

Thank you very much.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Rowe". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas Rowe

# Feds watching for big cable rate hikes before law kicks in

By DIANE DUSTON  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators say they'll keep a close eye on any big cable TV price increases that occur before a new cable TV rate-regulation law goes into effect.

At its monthly meeting yesterday, the Federal Communications Commission approved several steps in the rule-making process for enforcing the new law and cautioned FCC staff to be on the lookout for abusive rate hikes.

FCC Chairman Alfred Sikes said cable television rate increases before the law is fully implemented "need to be targeted and scrutinized."

The law that put monopoly cable television systems back under federal control was passed over President Bush's veto in October. It requires the FCC to establish a rate formula for "basic" cable service, which includes all local broadcast sta-

tions and public and government access cable stations.

It also requires the FCC to set specific service standards and make rules to enable cable competitors to get access to programming now seen on cable.

Public comment must be gathered before the FCC rules will be final.

But in the interim, scattered rate increases by cable companies have occurred.

In a letter Wednesday to the FCC, the senators and House members who led the fight for the new law urged the commission "to pay particular attention to those cable operators who rush through rate increases in anticipation of rate regulation."

"Some cable operators have even asserted that their rate increases are a result of the Cable Act. These assertions are

false," said the letter from Sens. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., Daniel Inouye, D-Hawaii, Slade Gorton, R-Wash., John Danforth, R-Mo., and Reps. Edward Markey, D-Mass., and John Dingell, D-Mich.

In other business, the FCC:  
• Opened the door to further development of a new technology that could become a com-

petitor to cable television.

Known as CellularVision, it is a microwave system that uses cells, similar to the concept by which cellular telephone operates, to transmit video to homes.

• Started the rule-making process for adopting the Motorola C-Quam system as the standard for AM stereo radio broadcasting.



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